



# Colwell Nursery School and Kindergarten

755 OKLAHOMA DRIVE, PICKERING, ONTARIO L1W 2H4 TEL: 905-839-0074  
[www.ColwellNurserySchool.com](http://www.ColwellNurserySchool.com)

## Allergy and Anaphylactic Policy

Effective May 2, 2007 in compliance with regulatory amendments to the Day Nurseries Act.

### Policy Statement

Colwell Nursery School and Kindergarten recognizes the potentially serious consequences of children with allergies. These allergies may include a condition known as anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction brought about by exposure to certain foods or other substances. According to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* (source: [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)), there are nine “priority food allergens” that may trigger an anaphylactic reaction:

- Peanuts and peanut by-products (such as peanut oil and peanut butter)
- Tree nuts
- Sesame seeds
- Milk
- Eggs
- Seafood (fish, crustaceans and shellfish)
- Wheat
- Soy
- Sulphites (a food additive)

Tree nuts are defined as walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts (filberts), Brazil nuts, pecans, cashews, pistachio nuts, pine nuts (pignolias) and macadamia nuts. Non-food items such as latex and bee stings can also bring about a life-threatening reaction.

**Colwell Nursery School can not guarantee, nor can it be deemed to be free of food items and non-food items that may lead to a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction. We will make every reasonable effort to reduce the risk to children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis in accordance with this policy.**

We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens, and so anaphylactic children must learn to avoid specific triggers. While the key responsibility lies with the anaphylactic individual and his or her family, in the case of a young anaphylactic child, the Nursery School community must also be aware. Creating an environment that reduces the risk to severely allergic or anaphylactic children requires the co-operation of all members of the school, including staff, children, and parents. We therefore request

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that **NO PEANUT OR TREE NUT PRODUCTS ARE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT ANY TIME.**

### Identification of Children at Risk

- It is the responsibility of the Parent and/or Guardian, herein called the parent, to inform the Nursery School that his or her child, herein called the Child, has allergies, is anaphylactic, or is potentially anaphylactic. This must be listed on the registration form, and must be verbally communicated to the Colwell staff.
- All staff shall be aware of these children. A list of all children with allergies is posted in a conspicuous area where food is prepared. Parents must provide two (2) recent photos of the child, to be stored with the EpiPen to aid in quick recognition of the appropriate medication.
- The parent must sign and date their consent for the emergency administration of an EpiPen by a school staff member annually.
- On the child's admission to the school, a Colwell staff member will discuss the child's allergies with the Parent. The staff member will receive a demonstration of EpiPen administration by the Parent.

### Availability and Location of EpiPens

The EpiPen is an auto-injector containing epinephrine (adrenaline). This medicine is an alpha and beta-receptor stimulant used to treat severe allergic reactions. It may also be used to treat severe allergic reactions that affect breathing.

Parents of an anaphylactic Child must provide a minimum of one (1) EpiPen, to be left at the school. The Parent must promptly replace the EpiPen when the expiry date has been reached.

Because some children are too young to carry their own EpiPen, the school will store EpiPens in the First Aid Boxes in each of the classrooms. EpiPens will be placed in a small zippered bag, and will be clearly labelled with the Child's name, EpiPen expiry date, specific allergy, and a picture of the Child.

- Colwell staff are trained and ready at all times to administer the EpiPen

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- Children who are no longer allergic, or no longer require an EpiPen, must present a letter of explanation from their doctor or allergist so that their name may be removed from the school's allergy list.
- Staff will maintain a list of EpiPen expiry dates, and will notify Parents one (1) month prior to expiry. Parents will then have 1 month to supply the school with a replacement.
- Parents must sign a ***Consent For Emergency Administration of an EpiPen by Colwell Staff*** form for the administration of the EpiPen. The Colwell Staff Member will receive a demonstration of EpiPen Administration by the Parent.

### Symptoms of an Allergic Reaction

A person experiencing an allergic reaction may have any of the following symptoms:

- Trouble breathing, speaking, or swallowing
- A drop in blood pressure, rapid heart rate, loss of consciousness
- Flushed face, hives or a rash, red and itchy skin
- Swelling tongue
- Anxiousness, distress, faintness, paleness, sense of doom, weakness
- Cramps, diarrhea, vomiting

### Treatment Protocol

All staff are trained, as follows, in the management of an anaphylactic emergency:

1. There are no contraindications or hesitation to use an EpiPen (epinephrine) for a potentially life-threatening reaction. Time of administration is noted.
2. One Teacher stays with the affected Child
3. Another teacher calls 911 immediately
4. Parents are contacted immediately after the 911 call is completed. If the Parent is not available at any of the contact numbers, Emergency Contacts listed for that Child on the Registration Form are contacted.
5. Regardless of the degree of reaction or response to epinephrine, the Child is taken to an Emergency Room by Emergency Personnel. A teacher will accompany the Child if the Parent is not present at the time of ambulance departure. The EpiPen that was administered will be taken to the hospital.



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6. The teacher accompanying the Child to the hospital will stay with the child until the Parent arrives. The Teacher will be reimbursed for any costs incurred.
7. The Teacher will file a Serious Occurrence Report and it will be filed with the Child's registration package.

## Training and Parent Notification

The policy and procedures will be reviewed annually, in September, by the Colwell staff. Training and review of anaphylactic reactions and procedures is also completed at this time. This policy will be distributed to all parents as a part of the Colwell Nursery School Parent Handbook. Parents are required to sign and date the last page of the policy, indicating that they have read and understood the policy, and will adhere to it. A separate section is provided for those Parents with an anaphylactic Child to grant Colwell Staff the authority to administer an EpiPen to their Child in the event of an emergency.

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**Please sign, date, and return this portion back to the school**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) have read and understood the above Anaphylactic Policy, and agree to adhere to the guidelines described herein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Consent for the Administration of an EpiPen by Colwell Staff

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) request that epinephrine (EpiPen / Ana-Kit) be administered to \_\_\_\_\_ (Child's Name) in the event of an anaphylactic emergency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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